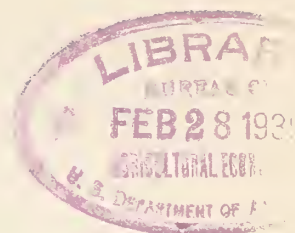


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Land Economics Division



Bulletin 44

BULLETIN OF OUTSTANDING FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAND
USE DURING THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 3, 1939 to FEBRUARY 16, 1939.

(Primarily for the information of Bureau of Agricultural Economics personnel and the Farm Security Administration and collaborating offices and agencies.)

L. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

AGRICULTURE

H. R. 3235. Mr. Wheelchel. January 25, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To provide for the refund of taxes collected and abatement of taxes assessed but not collected under the Bankhead Cotton Act, approved April 21, 1934, as amended.

H. R. 3366. Mr. Coffee of Nebraska. January 30, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To regulate interstate and foreign commerce in seeds; to require labeling and to prevent misrepresentation of seeds in interstate commerce; and to require certain standards with respect to certain imported seeds.

H. R. 3401. Mr. Hill. January 30, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To amend section 8(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937, as amended, to make its provisions applicable to Pacific Northwest boxed apples.

H. R. 3405. Mr. Johnson of Illinois. January 30, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture. (See Bulletin 43, p. 2, S. 570.)

The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to ascertain and announce (1) average cost of production price, taking into consideration compensation to farm operators, maintenance, and depreciation of soil, equipment and stock, property investment, and average yields, on all agricultural products introduced in Interstate Commerce in quantities having a value in excess of \$10,000 per year, (2) estimate the volume

of production for domestic consumption, reserve and export. After the beginning of the marketing year all dealers, processors or agencies dealing in Interstate Commerce shall pay to the producers of such agricultural products not less than such average cost of production price for such agricultural product for domestic consumption. All dealers are to be licensed by the Secretary in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by him. When a producer delivers a product to a dealer or processor the Secretary shall issue to the producer a receipt showing the quantity and grade of the product. The Secretary may direct the dealers or processors to deliver to him all the reserves and export quantities and he is directed to sell them in the world market to the best advantage. After the marketing year the receipts for reserves and exports are to be redeemed by the Secretary through the Post Office Department in the net amount realized after deducting costs and expenses of handling as determined by the Secretary.

H. R. 3532. Mr. Sheppard. January 31, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To create a Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to insure against loss of wheat, corn, cotton, oats, barley, rye, rice, and tobacco crop failures due to drought, flood, hail, wind, tornado, insect infestation, plant disease, and such other causes as may be determined by the Board. This Act would supplement Section 508, Public Number 430, 75th Congress, of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 which applies only to wheat.

H. R. 3839. Mr. Hook. February 7, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To regulate interstate and foreign commerce in foods, grains, grain and seed screenings, hay, bedding, packing material, and other materials recognized as carriers of noxious weed seeds. To prohibit shipment of certain materials carrying noxious weed seeds in interstate and foreign commerce; and to require certain treatments to kill noxious weed seeds carried in certain materials in interstate and foreign commerce.

S. 1179. Mr. Miller. February 2, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

To amend section 35 of the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of 1933, as amended, to provide an interest rate of 3% per annum on loans to agricultural improvement districts.

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

H. R. 3801. Mr. Luther A. Johnson. February 7, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To extend the time for retirement of cotton pool partici-

pation trust certificates from December 31, 1939, to include the 30th day of June 1939, but after the expiration of said limit the purchase may be consummated of any such certificates tendered to the manager of the cotton pool, on or before June 30, 1939.

BANKING AND CREDIT

H. R. 3383. Mr. Steagall. January 30, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To amend the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act to continue its functions from June 30, 1939 to January 15, 1941.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION

H. R. 2990. Mrs. Norton. January 20, 1939. To Committee on Labor.

To amend the act establishing the Civilian Conservation Corps, approved June 28, 1937, as amended (50 Stat. 319) to give the Civilian Conservation Corps an unlimited time for operation.

FARM CREDIT

H. R. 3037. Mr. Lemke. January 23, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To prohibit deficiency judgments in real estate foreclosures by the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Land Bank Commissioner, and the Federal land banks, and prohibiting an increased rate of interest after maturity.

H. R. 3817. Mr. Thorkelson. February 7, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To direct the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration to cancel all loans which have been made to farmers in drought-stricken areas in the United States pursuant to the Act of January 29, 1937 (Public Law No. 3, 75th Congress), or the joint resolution of February 4, 1938 (Public Resolution 78, 75th Congress), or pursuant to any other Act or Resolution approved subsequent to March 2, 1921, under which loans of a similar character were authorized. The Governor of the Farm Credit Administration is also authorized and directed to release all liens given to secure such loans.

H. J. Res. 137. Mr. Lemke. January 30, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To authorize the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal land banks, the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, and the Home Owner's Loan Corporation, and other Government or Government-controlled institutions to cease all foreclosures for a period of two years, except in cases where the property has been abandoned or waste is being deliberately committed or where the mortgagor refuses to make payments although he is

in a financial position to do so and provided the mortgagor pays the current year's taxes.

HOUSING

H. R. 3217. Mr. VanZandt. January 25, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To amend the National Housing Act, Section 2, section 203(a), Title II, to read:

"The Administrator is authorized, upon application by the mortgagee, to insure as hereinafter provided any mortgage, offered to him which is eligible for insurance as hereinafter provided, and, upon such terms as the Administrator may prescribe, to make commitments for the insuring of such mortgages prior to the date of their execution or disbursement thereon: Provided, That the aggregate amount of principal obligations of all mortgages insured under this title and outstanding at any one time shall not exceed \$2,000,000,000, except that with the approval of the President such aggregate amount may be increased to not to exceed \$3,000,000,000."

Section 3, section 203(b)(3) title II; Section 4, subsection (c) section 203, title II; and Section 5, subsection (a) 204, title II, are also amended by removing the date -- "July 1, 1939".

(See also similar bills H. R. 2980 and 3232.)

H. R. 3247. Mr. Whelchel. January 25, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To provide for the creation of a Farmer's Home Corporation under the management of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration. The sum of \$50,000,000 is to be subscribed by the United States for the capital of the corporation and \$50,000,000, is to be appropriated each year for ten years to be used in fulfilling its purposes. It is to be the duty of the corporation to assist in establishing farms and farm homes in order to encourage the ownership of farm homes and the improvement of the situation of farm tenants. It may purchase land; construct, maintain or acquire buildings, equipment and livestock. Only "natural persons" who are farmers or are about to become engaged in farming are eligible for the benefits of the act, and then only when they have been certified to buy the local county committee composed of one farmer, one business man and one experienced credit man. Loans can only be made on land purchased through the Corporation; title to lands cannot be passed to purchasers by the Corporation until \$25.00 of the purchase price has been paid and then the size of the farm must not be greater than the average for the community as determined by the last Federal Census. No property may be leased for more than five years at a time unless it be a

lease with an option to purchase although a lease may be renewed for an additional five years. The Corporation is also authorized to exercise and perform all of the powers formerly conferred upon the Resettlement Administration.

H. R. 3370. Mr. Lenko. January 30, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To authorize the Home Owner's Loan Corporation to liquidate, refinance and take up mortgages and liens on homes in cities and towns existing at the date of this Act by real estate loans secured by first mortgages on such homes to 80% of their appraised value. Such loans are to bear $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest and $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ principal per annum on standard amortization plan and the funds with which to liquidate and refinance such existing mortgages shall be provided by issuing of Home Owner's Loan Corporation bonds bearing $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest. \$100,000 is authorized to be appropriated for the use of the Home Owner's Loan Corporation to carry out the provisions of this Act.

H. R. 3947. Mr. O'Toole. February 8, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To amend the Federal Housing Act to provide that the rates of pay for persons employed upon the construction of property covered by a mortgage insured hereunder shall not be less than the prevailing scale in the locality as determined by the Department of Labor.

S. 590. Mr. Wagner. January 12, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To provide for the establishment of a corporation, known as the Federal Mortgage Bank, creating a permanent discount and purchase system for mortgages on urban real estate. The Secretary of the Treasurer on behalf of the United States is required to subscribe to one-hundred thousand shares of the authorized common stock of the Bank. No stockholder, except the United States, may hold in excess of one per centum of the bank's authorized capital. Any individual, partnership, corporation, the Government of the United States, or any State or subdivision may be a stockholder. The Bank may lend money on mortgages to, or buy mortgages from, persons, partnerships, funds, corporations, associations, and banking or other institutions complying with these two requirements: (1) that they have been common stock holders for at least six months prior to the proposed lending or purchase, and (2) that they are engaged in the business of using their own funds in the making of real estate mortgages on urban property. The purpose of the bill as stated in the preamble is "to fill a gap in the

national financial structure to the end of stabilizing mortgage practice, easing mortgage credit, and by the establishment of an adequate agency, preventing periodic frozen condition in financial institutions."

S. 1183. Mr. Hayden. February 2, 1939. To Committee on Banking and Currency.

To amend the Home Owner's Loan Corporation Act of 1933, as amended, to set the rates of pay for persons employed in repairing or recenditioning property acquired by the Corporation at not less than prevailing rates of pay for similar work in the same locality, with respect to repairs of public buildings owned by a State.

ROADS

H. R. 3213. Mr. Elliott. January 25, 1939. To Committee on Roads.

To provide that not less than 50% of the Federal highway-aid funds, appropriated or made available for carrying out the provisions of the Federal Highway Act, as amended and supplemented (U.S.C., 1934 edition, title 23, ch. 1; Supp. III, title 23, Ch. 1) shall be applied to secondary or feeder roads, including farm-to-market roads, rural free delivery mail routes, public-school-bus routes, and roads in oil-producing districts.

SOIL CONSERVATION

H. R. 3323. Mr. Rees of Kansas. January 26, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To amend the last paragraph of section 8 (e) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, to reduce the \$10,000 limit on payments thereunder to \$1,500.

H. R. 3800. Mr. Jones of Texas. February 7, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To amend section 8 (e) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, to read:

"The total payment that would otherwise be made to any person for any year pursuant to this section shall be reduced by 25 per centum of the amount thereof in excess of \$1,000. No total payment to any person for any year shall exceed \$5,000, but in applying these limitations there shall be excluded amounts representing a landlord's share of a payment made with respect to land operated under a tenancy or sharecropper relationship if the division of the payment between the landlord and the tenant or sharecropper is determined by the local committee to be in accordance with fair and customary standards of renting or sharecropping prevailing the locality. In the case of payments to any person on account of performance on farms in different States, Territories, or possess-

ions, the 25 per centum reduction and the \$5,000 limitation shall be applied to the total of the payments for each State, Territory, or possession for a year, and not to the total of all payments.

TAXES

H. R. 3236. Mr. Wheelchel. January 25, 1939. To Committee on Public Lands.

To provide for the annual payment to each county in which lands in private ownership have been, or are, acquired by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, an amount equal to the taxes that would have accrued to such county if such lands had remained in private ownership and taxable. Payments received by the county under this Act shall be prorated, apportioned, and paid the State in the same proportion as the taxes on land in private ownership are prorated and paid the State. There is authorized an appropriation annually, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

H. R. 3384. Mr. Woodruff of Michigan. January 30, 1939. To Committee on Public Lands.

To provide for payments to counties, in an amount equal to 10 cents per acre, or fraction thereof, on any land title to which is held by the United States, and is included in a national park, national forest, national monument or national wildlife refuge. Such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act are authorized to be appropriated.

WATER UTILIZATION

H. R. 3524. Mr. Lemke. January 31, 1939. To Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation.

To create a Water Conservation Commission, having the power to locate, construct, own, maintain, and operate, anywhere in the United States, dams, canals, ditches, reservoirs, lakes, spillways, locks, docks, depots, warehouses, workshops, electric-power producing plants, electric transmission lines, telephone lines, office and service buildings, and any other necessary buildings, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act. The above systems and plants shall be operated for the purpose of impounding, storing, conserving, and making use for irrigation and reclamation of the unappropriated waters falling or emanating within the United States. There is authorized to be appropriated a standing appropriation of \$500,000,000 each year for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

H. R. 3747. Mr. Doxey. February 6, 1939. To Committee on Agriculture.

To provide for improved agricultural land utilization

by authorizing rehabilitation of drainage works: There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$10,000,000 each year up to and including June 30, 1942, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

II. STATE LEGISLATION

AGRICULTURE

Wyoming. H. R. 28. Regular Session. Act No. 19, Laws 1939.

To amend and re-enact Section 2, Chapter 115, Session Laws of Wyoming, 1935, (1) to create a noxious weed pest inspection district under provisions of Chapter 5, Article 2, Wyoming Revised Statutes of 1931, and amendatory acts; (2) to direct the Board of County Commissioners to make formal application to the Department of Agriculture for allocation of funds; and (3) the Board of County Commissioners shall agree to assume and cancel one third of the certified bill or bills of expense of such noxious weed eradication to each and every landowner including chemicals, labor, use of machinery or other items of expense connected therewith, provided the work is done under the direction of the State Entomologist.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Oklahoma. S. B. 34. Regular Session. Approved January 27, 1939.

To create an Interstate Oil Compact Commission to conserve oil and gas, providing for the execution of an agreement to extend said compact, prescribing the form of the agreement and procedure for withdrawal from the compact, designating the Governor as the official representative of Oklahoma on the Interstate Oil Compact Commission, authorizing the Governor to appoint an assistant representative, prescribing his duties and fixing his compensation, authorizing the employment of other assistants, and the incurring of expenses, creating a special fund and appropriating moneys to accrue thereto to the payment of the compensation and expenses authorized by this Act, prescribing manner of disbursement of the special fund, providing that any balance at the end of any fiscal year shall be credited to the conservation fund, providing that the Act ceases to operate if State withdraws from the compact and balance in the special fund shall be credited to the conservation fund.

REAL PROPERTY

Minnesota. S. B. 53. Regular Session. Approved February 4, 1939. Chapter 7, Laws 1939.

To grant relief to mortgagors, in cases of distress due to abnormal weather, economic and financial conditions, from

inequitable foreclosure of mortgages on real estate and execution sales of real estate and for postponing certain sales and extending redemption period of others. Relates to the jurisdiction and procedure for such relief and for the right to possession during the extended period, and for limiting the right to maintain actions for deficiency judgments.

ROADS

Idaho. H. R. 11. Regular Session. Approved January 28, 1939.

To declare the policy of the State of Idaho with respect to the maintenance and construction of highways and imposing upon the counties, highway district, good roads districts and all cities and villages in the state, the duties of improving and maintaining highways; defining highways, and providing that all such highways shall constitute the state-wide highway system of the State, and that the counties, highway districts, good roads districts and cities and villages in the state shall continue to perform, as agents of the State, all acts necessary and proper for the administration, construction and maintenance of such highways and exercise of the powers and duties vested in them by law, under the general supervision of the State. To authorize an annual appropriation from the State Highway Fund and to provide for the distribution of such appropriation to counties, highway districts, and good roads districts. Also to create a Motor Fuels Tax Fund.

TAXES

California. A. B. 691. Regular Session. Approved January 30, 1939. Chapter 8, Laws 1939.

To amend Section 3817(d) of the political code for the purpose of postponing tax sales of delinquent property for the years 1939, 1940, 1941, there shall be no public auctions of tax delinquent property but instead property shall be deeded to the State.

California. A. B. 692. Regular Session. Approved January 30, 1939. Chapter 9, Laws 1939.

To amend section 3817(b)6 for the purpose of enabling owners to redeem tax delinquent lands deeded to the State and not already resold by the State. In all cases where real estate has been sold to the State on or before July 1, 1938, for delinquent taxes and the State has not disposed of such lands the redeemer may elect to pay the delinquent taxes in installments with interest at 7 per centum and without any other costs or penalties. Procedure is prescribed for the installment payments and in the event of failure the land is deeded to the State and may be resold by the State.

WATER UTILIZATION

New Hampshire. S.J.Res. 1. Regular Session. Approved January 19, 1939.

To establish a commission, consisting of the Governor, Attorney General, Chairman of the Land Use Board, Chairman of the Water Resources Board, one member of the House of Representatives, and one member of the Senate, to inquire into the methods best adaptable to protect and preserve the natural resources of the State, investigate flood control, water power development and other similar projects. A sum not to exceed \$5,000 is appropriated to carry on this inquiry.

